

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Nevada

Profile of Drug Indicators

October 2002



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Nevada

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, funding, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 2,106,074 (2001 estimate); 1,998,257 (2000 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 65.2% white; 6.6% black/African American; 1.1% American Indian/Alaska Native; 4.4% Asian; 0.4% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.1% other race; 2.5% two or more races; 19.7% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)

Politics

- Governor: Kenny Guinn²
- Lt. Governor: Lorraine T. Hunt³
- Attorney General: Frankie Sue Del Papa⁴
- Secretary of State: Dean Heller⁵
- U.S. Senate Members: Harry Reid (D), John Ensign (R)⁶
- U.S. House of Representatives Members: Shelley Berkley (D), James Gibbons (R)⁷
- Capital: Carson City⁸

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)
Designated in January 2001, the Clark County HIDTA was established to combat the influx of drug trafficking in southern Nevada.⁹ This HIDTA is still in the planning stages.¹⁰
- Coalition for a Safe and Drug-Free Nevada (BEST Coalition)¹¹
Founded in 1989, the mission of the BEST Coalition is to implement and facilitate school, family, and community partnerships to promote a safe and drug-free lifestyle for the well being of all Nevada residents.
- Substance Abuse Education, Prevention, Enforcement and Treatment Commission¹²
Members of this Nevada Commission meet quarterly and are tasked with preparing a comprehensive State Master Plan to combat substance abuse and evaluate the effectiveness of substance abuse programs in Nevada.
- Perinatal Substance Abuse Prevention Initiative¹³
The mission of Nevada's Perinatal Substance Abuse Prevention Initiative is to prevent substance abuse by pregnant women.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grantees in Nevada:¹⁴
 - FY 2002: No grantees awarded funding in Nevada
 - FY 2001:
 - \$100,000 awarded to Churchill Community Coalition, Fallon
 - \$100,000 to Frontier Community Coalition, Winnemucca

- FY 2000:
 - \$100,000 to Partnership for Community Resources Coalition of Douglas County, Minden
- FY 1999:
 - \$100,000 to Central Lyon County Youth Coalition, Dayton
 - \$100,000 to Join Together Northern Nevada, Reno
 - \$90,400 to Community Council for Youth, Carson City
- FY 1998:
 - \$98,794 to the BEST Partnership for a Drug-Free Nevada, Las Vegas
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed¹⁵

Two sites have received Federal funding and been officially recognized as Weed and Seed sites in Nevada: Las Vegas and Reno.
- FY 2001/02 SAMHSA Formula and Discretionary Grant Allotments Summary:¹⁶
 - Formula Funding: \$14,829,182
 - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant - \$11,290,684
 - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant - \$2,853,598
 - Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) - \$300,000
 - Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant - \$384,900
 - Discretionary Funding: \$5,131,961
 - Mental Health - \$2,101,881
 - Substance Prevention - \$1,857,273
 - Substance Abuse Treatment - \$1,172,807
 - Total Mental Health Funds: \$5,640,379
 - Total Substance Abuse Funds: \$14,320,764
 - Total Funds for Nevada: \$19,961,143
- FY 2002 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to Nevada: \$4,170,473.¹⁷
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant amounts received in Nevada:¹⁸
 - \$480,588 to the State of Nevada Supreme Court Rural Drug Court in Carson City (implementation grant)
 - \$30,000 to the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe Tribal Administrator (planning grant)
 - \$412,310 to the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California Grants Office in Gardnerville (implementation grant)
 - \$30,000 to the Reno Sparks Indian Colony Planning Department in Reno (planning grant)
- FY 2001 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to Nevada: \$592,856.¹⁹
- Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant awarded in Nevada during FY 2001:²⁰
 - \$125,000 to the Buena Vista Springs Apartments, North Las Vegas
- FY 2000 Local Law Enforcement Block Grant funds awarded to Nevada: \$105,617.²¹

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2000, there were 10,120 drug abuse violation arrests in Nevada reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting program.²²

Number of Arrests, Selected Offenses, Nevada, 2000

Offense	Juveniles	Total All Ages
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	15	111
Forcible rape	42	300
Robbery	220	1,193
Aggravated assault	261	1,577
Burglary	1,044	4,512
Larceny-theft	3,482	11,328
Motor vehicle theft	527	1,625
Arson	55	72
Drug abuse violations	1,647	10,120
Driving under the influence	85	8,138
Liquor laws	1,510	8,292
Drunkenness	26	356

Drugs

- Cocaine
Cocaine, particularly crack cocaine, is a significant problem in the urban areas of Nevada. Cocaine HCL is moderately available in northern Nevada and readily available throughout the southern areas of the state.²³
- Heroin
Mexican black tar heroin remains the most prevalent form of heroin available in Nevada.²⁴
- Marijuana
Domestically cultivated and Mexican grown marijuana remain readily available in Nevada. In June 2001, Assembly Bill 453 was signed into law allowing patients to use marijuana for medicinal purposes.²⁵
- Methamphetamine
Methamphetamine, both imported into the state and locally produced, remains the principal drug of concern in Nevada. The purity level for methamphetamine imported into the state ranges from nine percent to twenty-six percent. Locally-produced methamphetamine is often of a higher purity level, averaging ninety percent.²⁶
- Club Drugs
The availability of club drugs in Nevada ranges from sporadic in the northern urban areas of the state to readily available in cities in the southern section of the state, particularly Las Vegas. Club drugs are typically abused in local nightclubs, adult entertainment clubs, and at raves.²⁷
- Other Drugs
The pharmaceutical drugs of choice in Nevada include Lortab, Hydrocodone, Xanax, Codeine, Diazepam, and Oxycodone. Prescription forgery and doctor shopping remain the primary methods by which pharmaceutical drugs are diverted in Nevada.²⁸

Juveniles

- A 2001 survey of Nevada high school students indicated that more than fifty percent of them have tried marijuana at least once in their lifetimes.²⁹

Percent of High School Students Using Selected Drugs, by Sex, Nevada, 2001

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	48.8	52.6	50.8
Current marijuana use	23.5	29.5	26.6
Lifetime cocaine use	12.4	11.5	11.9
Current cocaine use	4.6	6.3	5.5
Lifetime inhalant use	16.0	16.8	16.4
Current inhalant use	4.1	5.9	5.0
Lifetime methamphetamine use	16.5	14.8	15.6
Lifetime illegal steroid use	4.7	7.9	6.4
Lifetime injection of illegal drug	2.2	5.1	3.7

- More than sixty-seven percent of Nevada high school seniors reported using marijuana at least once in their lifetimes.³⁰

Percent of High School Students Using Selected Drugs, by Grade, Nevada, 2001

Drug Type and Use	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Lifetime marijuana use	40.0	45.1	55.4	67.1
Current marijuana use	21.6	21.8	30.8	33.5
Lifetime cocaine use	7.4	7.4	16.7	16.8
Current cocaine use	3.1	4.3	7.7	7.2
Lifetime inhalant use	19.1	16.2	14.5	13.4
Current inhalant use	6.6	5.0	5.6	0.3
Lifetime methamphetamine use	11.0	12.5	19.3	20.1
Lifetime illegal steroid use	6.2	6.2	7.4	4.5
Lifetime injection of illegal drug	3.5	3.2	4.3	2.6

Enforcement

- Drug Enforcement Administration Mobile Enforcement Teams³¹
Conceived in 1995 in response to the overwhelming problem of drug-related violent crime in towns and cities across the nation, the DEA's Mobile Enforcement Team (MET) program is a cooperative effort involving Federal, state and local law enforcement counterparts. There have been two MET deployments in Nevada since the inception of the program, taking place in Reno and Carson City.
- Southern Nevada Joint Methamphetamine Task Force³²
The Southern Nevada Joint Methamphetamine Task Force, a HIDTA initiative, has been created to address domestic trafficking organizations and career criminal enterprises involved in the manufacture of methamphetamine and the transport and distribution of meth and precursor chemicals within and through the HIDTA area of operation.
- As of October 31, 2000, there were 7,139 full-time law enforcement employees working in Nevada.³³

Trafficking and Seizures

- Due to its close proximity to California and its porous border, Nevada often serves as a transshipment point for various drugs to the central and eastern sections of the United States.³⁴
- During FY 2001, Federal agencies seized forty-five kilograms of methamphetamine in Nevada.³⁵

Federal Drug Seizures, Nevada, FY 2001

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Methamphetamine	45.0 kilograms
Marijuana	42.8 kilograms
Cocaine	13.0 kilograms
Heroin	1.7 kilograms

- During 2001, the Drug Enforcement Administration's Marijuana Eradication and Suppression program was responsible for eradicating 7,732 cultivated marijuana plants in Nevada.³⁶

Results of Marijuana Eradication Program, Nevada, 2001

Activity	
Outdoor – plots eradicated	9
Outdoor – cultivated plants eradicated	3,593
Indoor – grows seized	22
Indoor – plants eradicated	4,139
Total cultivated plants eradicated	7,732
Bulk processed marijuana	272
Number of arrests	25
Number of weapons seized	17
Value of assets seized	\$30,934

- DEA, state and local law enforcement agencies seized 255 clandestine laboratories in Nevada during FY 2001.³⁷
- DEA Mobile Enforcement Team deployments in Nevada have resulted in the following seizures: 0.4 pounds of cocaine; 0.6 pounds of crack cocaine; 2.2 pounds of marijuana; 18.5 pounds of methamphetamine; nine weapons; and \$31,275 in U.S. currency.³⁸

Courts

- Drug Courts³⁹
As of June 6, 2002, there were twenty-five drug courts in existence or being planned in Nevada. Ten drug courts have been operating for over two years, seven have recently been implemented, and eight are being planned.
- During FY 2001, 21.9% of Federally-sentenced defendants in Nevada were charged with drug offenses. Methamphetamine was involved in 48.2% (55) of the drug offenses.⁴⁰

Federally-Sentenced Drug Offenders, by Drug Type, Nevada, FY 2001

Drug Type	Percent	Number
Methamphetamine	48.2	55
Powder cocaine	16.7	19
Crack cocaine	14.9	17
Marijuana	12.3	14
Heroin	3.5	4
Other	4.4	5

Corrections

- At the end of 2001 (December 31), there were 10,201 prisoners under the jurisdiction of state or Federal correctional authorities in Nevada, a 1.4% increase in the prison population since December 31, 2000.⁴¹
- The number of adults on probation in Nevada decreased 14.2% in 2001, from 12,189 on January 1 to 10,454 on December 31.⁴²
- The adult parole population in Nevada increased 11.4% in 2001, from 4,056 on January 1 to 4,519 on December 31.⁴³

Treatment

- During 2001, more than 10,000 people were admitted to drug/alcohol treatment in Nevada.⁴⁴

Admissions to Drug/Alcohol Treatment, Nevada, 2001

Substance	Number of Clients	Percent of Total
Alcohol only	3,073	29.0%
Alcohol with secondary drug	1,324	12.5
Cocaine – smoked	1,099	10.4
Cocaine – other route	276	2.6
Marijuana	1,348	12.7
Heroin	781	7.4
Other opiates	95	0.9
PCP	31	0.3
Hallucinogens	17	0.2
Amphetamines	2,504	23.6
Other stimulants	11	0.1
Tranquilizers	16	0.2
Sedatives	9	0.1
Inhalants	7	0.1
Other/unknown	18	0.2
Total	10,609	100.0

Sources

- ¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>
- ² Nevada Governor Web site: <http://gov.state.nv.us/>
- ³ Nevada Lt. Governor Web site: <http://www.state.nv.us/ltgovernor/>
- ⁴ Nevada Attorney General Web site: <http://ag.state.nv.us/>
- ⁵ Nevada Secretary of State Web site: <http://www.sos.state.nv.us/>
- ⁶ U.S. Senate Web site: <http://www.senate.gov/>
- ⁷ U.S. House of Representatives Web site: <http://clerk.house.gov/members/index.php>
- ⁸ State of Nevada Web site: <http://silver.state.nv.us/>
- ⁹ Drug Enforcement Administration, Nevada State Factsheet: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/nevada.html>
- ¹⁰ Office of National Drug Control Policy, Nevada High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_nev.html
- ¹¹ Coalition for a Safe and Drug-Free Nevada Web site: <http://www.nvbest.org/>
- ¹² Nevada Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice: <http://ps.state.nv.us/ocj/>
- ¹³ Nevada State Health Division, Perinatal Substance Abuse Prevention Initiative Web site: <http://health2k.state.nv.us/PSAP/>
- ¹⁴ Drug-Free Communities Web site, Nevada section: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/states/nv.html>
- ¹⁵ Executive Office for Weed and Seed Data Center, Nevada section: <http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/nevada.html>
- ¹⁶ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Formula and Discretionary Grant Allotments Summary: <http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/funding.html>
- ¹⁷ Bureau of Justice Assistance Web site, FY 2002 Byrne Formula Grant Program State Allocations: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/html/FY2002BYRNE.htm>
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- ¹⁹ Office of Justice Programs, Corrections Program Office, State-by-State Grant Activities: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/cpo/welcome.html>
- ²⁰ U.S. Housing and Urban Development, *Federally Assisted Low-Income Housing Drug Elimination Grants: Detailed Congressional Report*, FY 2001: <http://www.hud.gov/content/releases/drugelimination.pdf>
- ²¹ Nevada Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice: <http://ps.state.nv.us/ocj/>
- ²² Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2000*, October 2001: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/00cius.htm>
- ²³ Drug Enforcement Administration, Nevada State Factsheet: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/nevada.html>
- ²⁴ Ibid.
- ²⁵ Ibid.
- ²⁶ Ibid.
- ²⁷ Ibid.
- ²⁸ Ibid.
- ²⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, Youth 2001 Online: <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/2001/youth01online.htm>
- ³⁰ Ibid.
- ³¹ Drug Enforcement Administration, Nevada State Factsheet: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/nevada.html>
- ³² Ibid.
- ³³ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2000*, October 2001: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/00cius.htm>
- ³⁴ Drug Enforcement Administration, Nevada State Factsheet: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/nevada.html>
- ³⁵ Ibid.
- ³⁶ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics Online*: <http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/>
- ³⁷ Drug Enforcement Administration, Nevada State Factsheet: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/nevada.html>
- ³⁸ Ibid.
- ³⁹ Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State*, June 6, 2002

⁴⁰ U.S. Sentencing Commission, FY 2001 Federal Sentencing Statistics – Nevada:

<http://www.ussc.gov/JUDPACK/2001/nv01.pdf>

⁴¹ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners in 2001*, June 2002: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/p01.pdf>

⁴² Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Probation and Parole in the United States, 2001*, August 2002:

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⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Substance Abuse Treatment Data by State, Nevada – 2001: <http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/webt/quicklink/NV01.htm>

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